

C.O.C.A. TIMES

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COIN OPERATED COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION



*See inside story for the
history of how the famous
William A. Harrah
collection came to be.*

Circa 1980

The Present



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Message from Our President....

Hello again! The weekend of the Chicagoland Show this past April was really a busy weekend for COCA. Our semi-annual meeting, held Thursday evening at the Hilton Garden Inn, was attended by almost 100 members and featured Craig Bierman, owner of Speed & Sport Chrome Plating, as our guest speaker. Craig's presentation on polishing and plating was very informative and gave many of us new insights into what is involved in getting the quality outcomes we all expect when restoring our vintage machines. While many of us have mastered several crafts in learning to restore our collections, plating is one that we all have to send out. For those of us who have heard stories of disappointing results when sending out parts for plating and wondered how it happens, Craig's detailed description of all of the steps necessary to ensure a perfect outcome, complete with examples of consequences of platers skipping crucial steps to save cost, gave us a better understanding of how to choose a plating shop wisely. Thanks Craig, for the great presentation!

Friday evening of the show weekend brought our gala event, 'An Evening at Place de la Musique', a trip to Jasper and Marian Sanfilippo's estate. Our evening began with a lovely catered dinner in the carousel building, home to the magnificent Eden Palais carousel, several ornate American and European fairground and dance hall organs, towering clocks, steam engines, restored railway cars, and numerous other mechanical antiques. Following dinner, we toured The Victorian Palace, their 44,000 square foot mansion, and home to their world renowned collection of mechanical music and coin operated machines, great architectural pieces, and art glass lamps. The evening ended in the music room with a short concert played on the world's largest Wurlitzer theater organ. Thanks once again to Jasper and Marian Sanfilippo for opening their home and allowing us to experience their magnificent collection. I'm sure all

who attended enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to returning.

Our next major event is COCA's 2014 Annual Convention, scheduled for October 24-26, 2014 in Florida. This year's host hotel is the Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort, an oceanfront hotel located in the heart of Deerfield Beach and conveniently located close to all of the collections we will be visiting during the convention. Special convention room rates are available, but be sure to make reservations early if you plan to attend since rooms are limited. For more info on the convention, view our convention flyer accompanying COCA Times or visit www.coinopclub.org.

I would like to remind everyone that we are accepting nominations for the C.O.C.A. Hall of Fame to be considered for this year's awards. The award is presented annually at C.O.C.A.'s fall meeting to one or more individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the hobby of collecting coin operated machines. Nominations for award recipients will be accepted from any individual who is a Member in Good Standing (as defined in the Association's bylaws) at the time of the nomination. Nominations should include a written statement from the individual making the nomination as to the qualifications of the nominee and must be received by September 1st to be considered for 2014. Nominations can be made using the 'Contact Us' form on our website, www.coinopclub.org, or by email to president@coinopclub.org. For nominees who were submitted but not selected for 2013, they will remain on the list for future consideration.

Hope to see you at the convention!

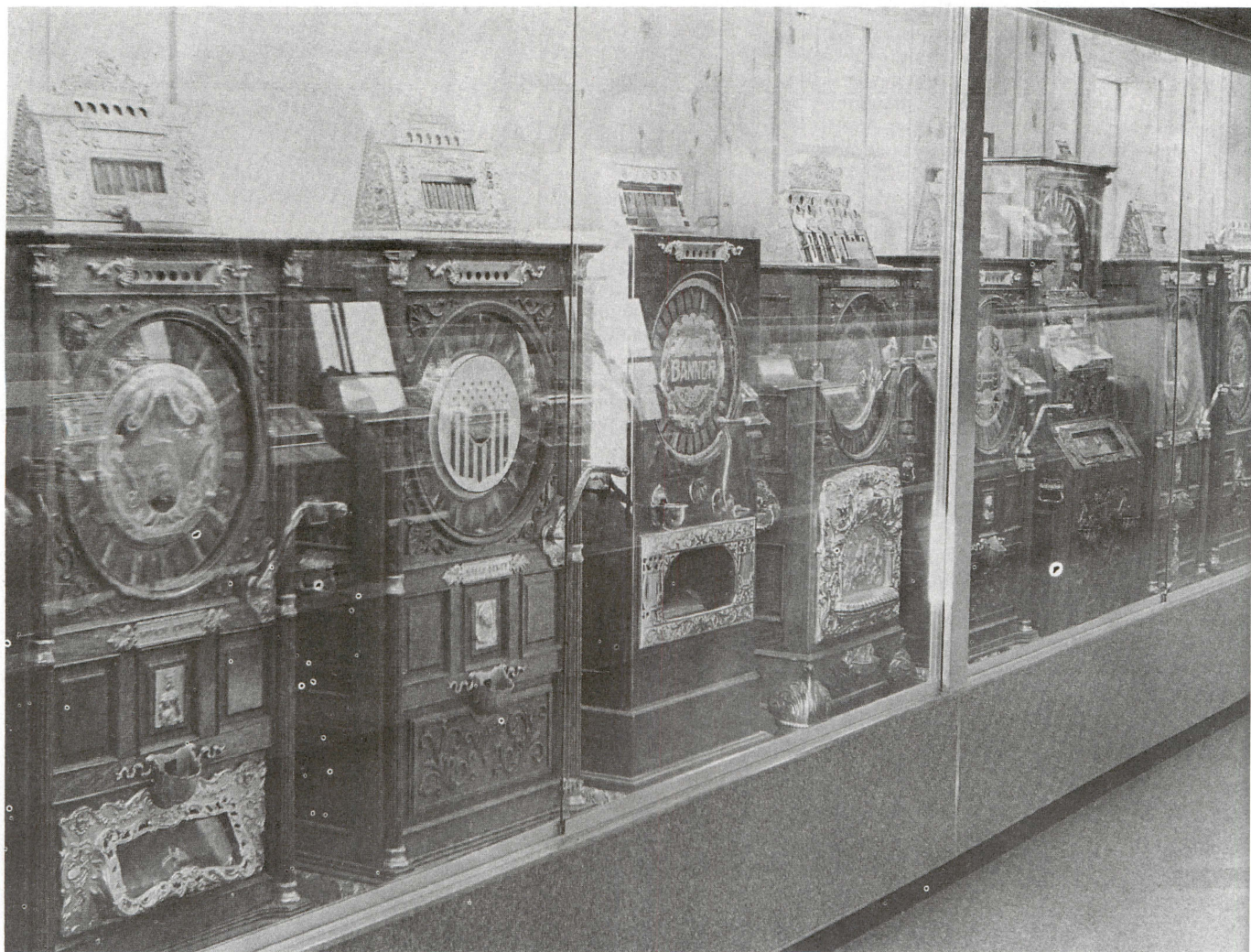
Doug Cain
COCA President
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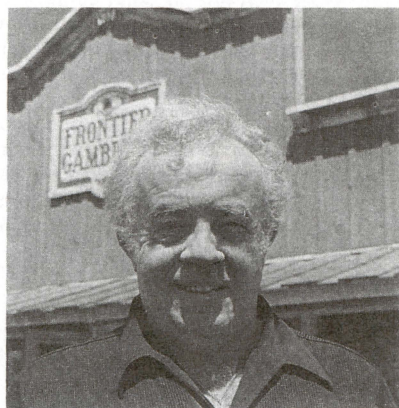
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**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
August 8th, 2014**



The Pony Express



There is a place in Reno where you can see Billy the Kid's rifle, Buffalo Bill's saddle, the original Great Seal of the State of California, a mechanical lady who plays a harp and eighty-five fine old antique slot machines. It is called Harrah's Pony Express Museum, and visiting it is like taking a journey into the Old West.

The Museum in an Ice House

In 1920, W. Parker Lyon opened his Pony Express Museum in South Pasadena, near Los Angeles, California. The museum soon outgrew its buildings, and it was moved to a much

larger compound in Arcadia, California, across from what is now Santa Anita Race Track.

Years later, the W. Parker Lyon Pony Express Museum was purchased by William Harrah. Frank Harper, Assistant Services Supervisor at the museum for the past year, says that the building now housing the collection was built in the early nineteen hundreds as an ice house. "As a matter of fact," Harper relates, "it was used for that up until 1958. We took it over in 1962 and opened it to the public as an automobile museum. We opened the Pony Express Museum shortly thereafter."



Rides Again

by Mel Getlan

More Than a Business Interest

Harper has more than a business interest in the collection. He says, "I've always been interested in artifacts of the Old West. As a matter of fact, I have a small collection of them myself. We have a lot of artifacts in the bar area here at the auto collection, and while tending bar I became engrossed in their beauty and historical significance."

Harper's own collection contains items such as old mechanical banks, Indian artifacts, slot machines and Sti-

rling silver.

Harper started working for Harrah's nineteen years ago as a bartender in the auto collection, and a year ago transferred to his present job. He takes care of "anything that has to do with the public."

Harper estimates the size of the museum is 2000 square feet. There must be hundreds of pieces on display.

What to Grab First

Given an imaginary fire in the place, what one thing would Harper save first? "I think I would pull out Billy the Kid's rifle, Ben Halliday's rifle and

Isis, which I believe was built in the 1910s or 20s."

Isis is an extraordinary machine, according to Don Britt, an associate of the late Mr. Harrah. It was donated by a Dr. Nixon, and Britt describes it as, "The musical gal with the tiger. She's a goddess who plays a harp." Harper goes on to explain that you could supposedly speak to the machine and ask it to play one of over 3,000 tunes. No one knows exactly how this was done, but one cannot help but speculate.

Billy the Kid's rifle was donated to the museum back in the 30s by the daughter of the man to whom the Kid



For many collectors the floor machines represent the zenith of their collecting career. These two beauties would be welcome in any collection. The Caille PUCK, shown on the left, was adapted from the Mills OWL, probably the most copied slot machine of all time. PUCKs were manufactured between 1898 and 1901, first by the Illinois Machine Company and then by Caille-Schiemer. The OWL had a five slot coin head, but the PUCK could take six coins, and is, in fact, the oldest six slot machine made. The name is derived from the *Puck Weekly*, a popular humor magazine, and probably was calculated to encourage people to think it was fun to play. Most PUCKs have heads that are cracked or missing, thanks to the practice of hitting a head with a sledge hammer to put the machine out of commission. The PUCK in the Harrah's collection is complete and in beautiful condition. The 1905 Caille FORTY-FIVE featured a form of mechanical roulette. It was a beautiful machine with lots of cast metal on it. It was probably named as it was because there were 45 possible stopping positions on the wheel although some insist that the popular Colt .45 "six-gun" was capitalized upon.

himself had given it.

Another thing Harper would consider grabbing on his mad escape from

the imaginary fire is the original carving of the Great Seal of the State of California.

Britt says that the seal was found in a bank vault in San Francisco in 1932. Nobody knows how it got there. And

though nobody is 100% certain that this is the authentic first carving, no other carving has ever surfaced, and this one has all the distinguishing marks of the sculptor who was supposed to have carved it. The seal was a gift to Mr. Lyon from someone whose name has been lost.

The seal originally hung in the Senate Building of what was then the capitol of California, San Jose, during the 1850 session.

A man named Balzar, a governor of Nevada in earlier days, donated the gold scale that was used in the Dayton, Nevada Wells Fargo office to weigh gold brought in by prospectors during the gold rush.

Dayton, Nevada also owned a Silsby Steamer fire engine. It put out fires around the turn of the century. It has been completely restored, and could put out fires today if it had to. The Silsby Steamer, now at Harrah's, was on display in the Smithsonian Institution during the American Bicentennial.

"I'm very fond of the whole collec-

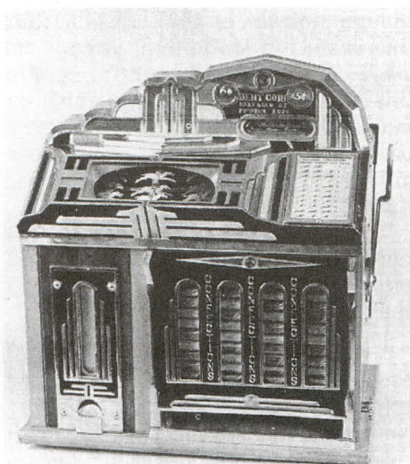


A passing young lady pauses to ponder a Mills FOUR BELLS. The Mills is a floor console built in 1940, and could take on four players at once.





The rare Mills DUPLEX is always worth another look, and here it is. The angular photograph shows the non-flat front—a feature most other floor machines do not have.

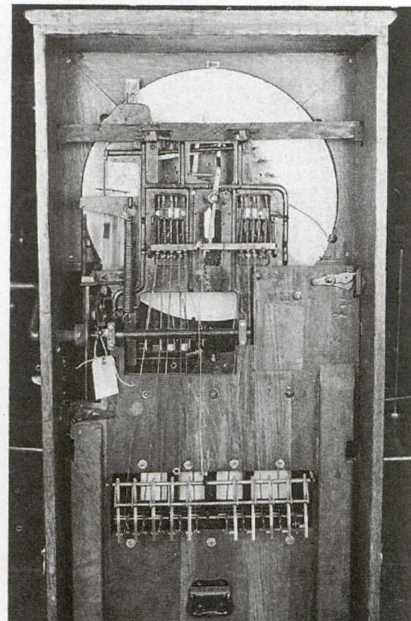


RACES was built by the Superior Confection Company in 1935. It came in two versions, one racing dogs, the other racing horses. The mechanism was essentially Watling and resembled a Jennings LITTLE DUKE on its back; and though it was complicated and seemingly unwieldy, RACES was fun to play. It was manufactured for about four years. This beautiful example is on display in the Harrah's collection.

tion," says Harper, "and I hope it stays together."

Britt reports that there are eighty-five fully restored slot machines on display in the Pony Express Museum, and thirty more that are being restored at this time. The restoration of the slot machines is done by the Harrah's slot department, supervised by Gino Ghigerri.

The museum intends to display more



This is the mechanism of the Mills DUPLEX. Note the simplicity of the mechanism as compared to the complexity of the detailing on the outside of the machine. Compare this with the opposite case in the construction of the McDonald BANNER.



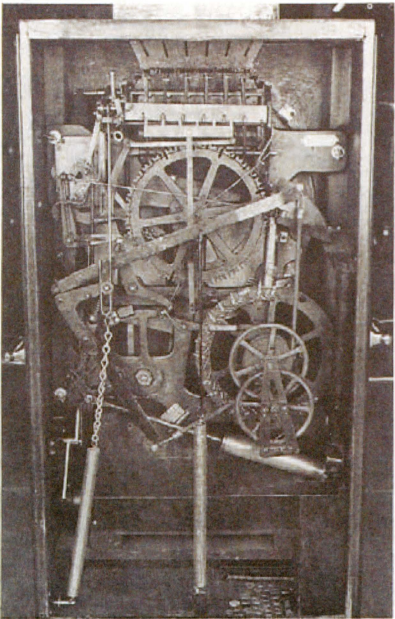
Frank Harper looks as if he's about to try his luck on one of the modern slot machines ready for gaming enthusiasts in the lobby appended to the Pony Express Museum. These are the only machines visitors to the collection are allowed to play; but the good news is that they pay better than the old-fashioned ones on display.

machines as they are restored.

Lyon Guarding the Goods

Mr. Lyon did not collect all the exhibits himself. Other people with interests similar to his donated artifacts from their own collections, or artifacts that they themselves had found.

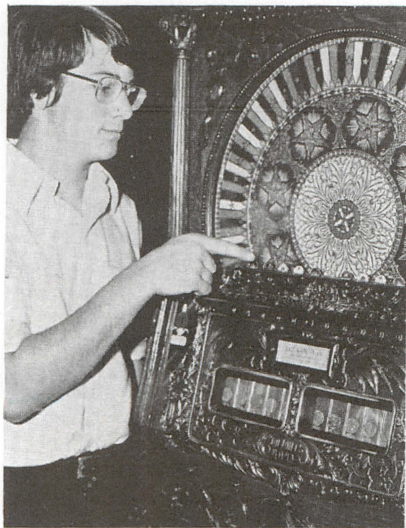
Lyon owned Lyon Van and Storage. He used to go out to ghost towns in the gold country with his trucks and "just collect anything that was lying about,"



The interior of the BANNER was a complicated arrangement of levers, springs and wheels, while its exterior was almost austere. Things were just the opposite in the Mills DUPLEX.



The McDonald BANNER was first manufactured in 1900. Here, one could bet on up to six colors and watch the wheel spin and listen to the music play. The odds are easy to figure on the old single wheel floor machines since one needs only to count up the number of colors and multiply the number of colors by the payout. This number, compared to the number of possible stopping positions determines the machine's odds.

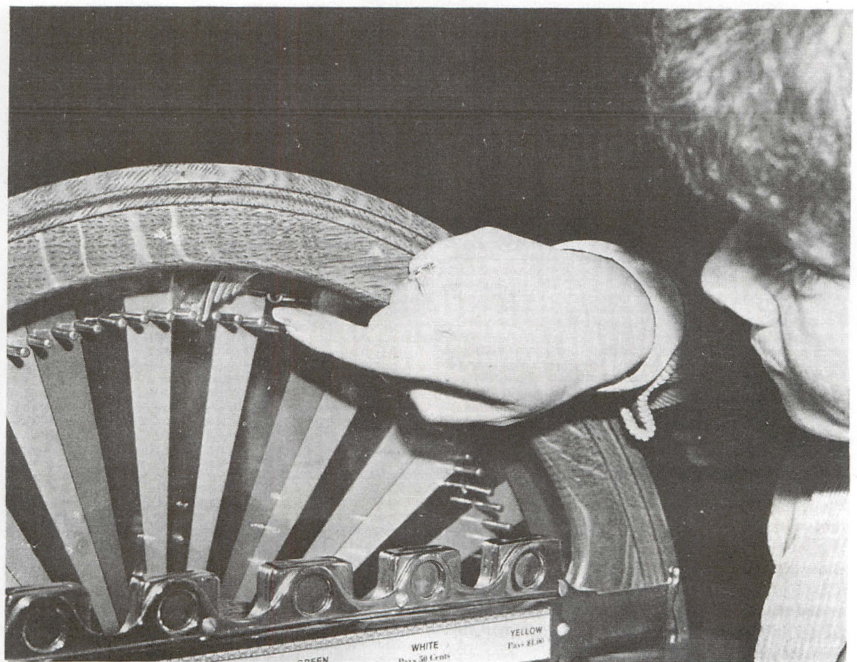


This is another look at the 1902 Mills DUPLEX. David Mead points to one of the colored coin slots into which a player could insert a nickel to bet on which of the five colors on the spinning wheel would pay off. Two people could play at once.

says Britt. There are several stories about his over-loaded trucks.

Britt goes on to say, "The important thing is that Lyon was the first to collect any of this Western stuff. Everybody else considered it junk."

The president of American Express, the company that bought out Wells Fargo, gave Lyon a letter he'd carry around to Wells Fargo offices—now American Express offices—in California. The letter said that anything having the words Wells Fargo on it could be given to Mr. Lyon. "So that's how he got all the stuff that was marked Wells



Nora Mead points to the pointer, an unusual feature of this Berger OSHKOSH. Most machines use arrows for indicating winners, but this machine uses a polished metal hand with a pointing finger. Oddly enough, the OSHKOSH and most other Berger machines were electrified. Because electricity was hard to find in 1897 when Berger began to produce the OSHKOSH, it ran on batteries. All the Berger machines were named after pieces of American real estate, and were very similar. Collectors find that the ancient electric mechanism keeps wearing out, but the fact these early machines are electric, and battery operated at that, has made them increasingly popular with collectors.

Fargo. He got strong boxes and documents and you name it."

The reason American Express did this of course, was that while realizing Wells Fargo was part of American history, they didn't want anything around with the old company name on it.

One can picture Mr. Lyon out in the field dressed in his cowboy duds, rounding up odd bits of the Old West under the nose of interlopers, thieves and hostile Indians.

Actually, according to Britt, who has read much of Mr. Lyon's correspondence and records, Lyon was a pretty



These vintage photographs, on display in the Pony Express Museum, were taken in the early 1900s somewhere in northern Nevada. Electricity was new and the popular card game was faro. Note the Chinamen—identified by the single braid of hair hanging from the back of the head of each one—on the far left and far right of the left hand photograph, showing that the gaming rooms were integrated if nothing else. The Chinamen were "left" after building the transcontinental railroad, and many were attracted to the Nevada gold and silver mines where they were employed at low wages. Gambling was basic in those days, without the amenities the contemporary casino player expects.



Frank Harper looks fondly through the front window at old chips, cards and other gambling paraphernalia on display at the Harrah's Pony Express Museum.

"mundane fellow." He was never threatened or shot at or anything like that. Collecting the Americana was itself an adventure.

Lyon's chief interest was in Pony Express memorabilia. He would buy it, swap it, trade it. Britt said, "He'd get it any way he could. If he found any lying around, he'd sure pick it up."

The Old West Lives

Every few years someone goes over the collection to do routine maintenance. The pieces in the collection are originals and will fall apart on their own eventually if somebody doesn't take care of them. But there is not much upkeep necessary.

Security is basic and effective. Cameras are everywhere in the museum, and

the pictures go to Harper's office. There are also the usual alarms on each case.

More than three hundred thousand people visit the Pony Express Museum every year. The Pony Express Museum, part of Harrah's Automobile Collection is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. otherwise.

In addition to the exhibits named above, the museum has on display original Wells Fargo Overland Stagecoaches, Buffalo Bill's saddle and Indian artifacts and weapons.

The Pony Express museum is a spectacular journey into the past of the American West. Anyone traveling to the West coast ought to make sure they don't miss it.

A Partial List of Coin-Operated Machines in the Harrah Collection

Trade Stimulators

1893 The Bicycle (5¢)	Sun
1900 Draw Poker (5¢)	Watling
1932 Freeplay (5¢)	Daval
1935 "Hit Me"	Pierce
1936 Real "21"	Daval
1940 Sparks Gum Vender	Groetchen
1938 Roulette Gum Ball (5¢)	Exhibit
1924 Reno (1¢)	Charles Fey
1928 3 in 1 Dice Game (5-10-25¢)	Charles Fey

Floor Machines

1897 Oshkosh (5¢)	Berger
1898 Puck (5¢)	Caille
1899 Dewey (5¢)	Mills
1900 Banner	McDonald
1901 New Century Music Detroit (5¢)	Caille-Schiemer
1902 Dewey (25¢)	Mills
1902 Duplex-Ten Way	Mills
1902 20th Century	Mills
1903 The Big Six	Watling
1904 Cricket (5¢)	Mills
1905 Eclipse (5¢)	Caille
1905 Eclipse (25¢)	Caille
1907 Peerless Roulette (25¢)	Caille
1907 Centaur (5¢)	Caille
1907 Centaur (25¢)	Caille
1907 Centaur (50¢)	Caille
1939 Century (50¢)	Mills
1905 Forty-Five (25¢)	Caille
1907 Twin Centaur (25-50¢)	Caille
1907 Twin Centaur (5¢)	Caille
1907 Twin Centaur (25¢)	Caille

Counter-Top Models

1907 Check-Boy (5¢)	Mills
1911 Operators Bell (1¢)	Mills
1911 Operators Bell (5¢)	Mills
1926 Front O.K. (5¢)	Mills
1929 Front O.K. (5¢)	Mills
1931 Double Jackpot (5¢)	Caille
1931 Little Duke (1¢)	Jennings

1931 Jackpot Gumball Vender (5¢)	Mills
1932 Silent F.O.K. Vender (5¢)	Mills
1932 Super Bell (5¢)	Mills
1932 Super Triple (1¢)	Rock-Ola
1933 Golden Bell (5¢)	Mills
1933 Caille Silent Sphinx (5¢)	Fuller-Johnson
1933 Watling Baby Gold Award (5¢)	Watling
1933 Little Duke (1¢)	Jennings
1934 Century Vender (5¢)	Jennings
1934 Dutchess Vender (5¢)	Jennings
1934 Silent Jackpot Bell (War Eagle) (10¢)	Mills
1934 Treasury (5¢)	Watling
1935 Comet (5¢)	Pace
1935 Bantam Bell (5¢)	Pace
1935 Bantam Mints (10¢)	Pace
1935 Races (5¢)	Superior Confection
1935 Dice Game (25¢)	Mills
1935 Extraordinary Bell (10¢)	Mills
1935 Caille Dough Boy (25¢)	Fuller-Johnson
1936 Multi-Bell	A.C. Novelty
1936 Q.T. Bell (1¢)	Mills
1936 Roll-A-Top (25¢)	Watling
1936 Black Cherry (10¢)	Mills
1936 Futurity Bell (5¢)	Mills
1937 Console Aristocrat (25¢)	Jennings
1938 Double Bell (5-25¢)	Bally
1938 Columbia Deluxe (10¢)	Groetchen
1938 Triplex Chief Bell (5-10-25¢)	Jennings
1939 Caille Cadet (10¢)	Fuller-Johnson
1940 Chrome Q.T. (5¢)	Mills
1940 Comet (10¢)	Pace
1907 Dice Game (25¢)	Royal Novelty
1912 O.K. Gum Vender	Mills
1932 Silent Bell (5¢)	Bull Durham Novelty
1932 Double Jackpot (25¢)	Charles Fey
1937 Chrome (5¢)	Pace
1941 Caille Cadet Bonus Mystery (5¢)	Fuller-Johnson
1916 Gum Vender	Watling

Floor Consoles

1940 4-Bells Console (5¢)	Mills
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All data supplied by Harrah's Auto Collection.



Consignments Wanted

Julia's recent toy, doll & advertising auction was a tremendous success, showing strong prices in nearly every category. The auction boasted a stellar offering that ranged from early American tin to clockwork automotive toys, fine French & German dolls, antique advertising, salesman samples, and much more. Despite changes to the market in recent years, fresh to the market, quality items that are conservatively estimated are still performing admirably. For over 40 years, Julia's has been at the forefront of the auction world, regularly handling quality estates and collections with aplomb. Our sterling reputation for honest and fair dealing, elegant presentation and the finest catalogs in the industry, combined with proven results including a great number of world auction records, and the most competitive commission rates in the industry means the greatest net return to you the consignor. We are now accepting quality consignment for our fall Toy & Doll auction. Whether you have one item or an entire collection, please contact us today for a free, no-obligation consultation. Be sure to ask about our special 0% seller's commission for expensive items.



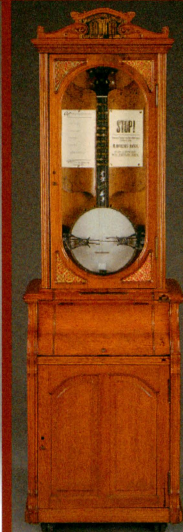
Rock-Ola 1937 World Series
Baseball game (est. \$35-40,000)
SOLD \$42,550



Caille Double slot w/ music
(est. \$45-65,000)
SOLD \$80,500



Multiphone coin-
operated cylinder
phonograph
SOLD \$63,250



Encore coin-op
automated banjo
(est. \$50-75,000)
SOLD \$54,625



Regina upright auto disc
changer (est. \$23-25,000)
SOLD \$25,875



Regina coin-op music box w/
gum vendor (est. \$9-11,000)
SOLD \$9,775



Sweepstakes horse race
game (est. \$1,800-2,200)
SOLD \$4,600



Mills Brownie slot
(est. \$7-9,000)
SOLD \$9,775



Sun Mfg. Co. Bicycle trade
stimulator (est. \$5,500-6,500)
SOLD \$9,200



Mills perfume machine
(est. \$5-8,000)
SOLD \$9,200



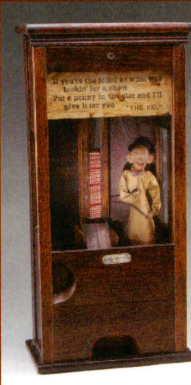
Regina Hexaphone
coin-op
phonograph
SOLD \$8,850



Champion
gum vendor
SOLD \$4,600



Mills shock
machine
(est. \$16-18,000)
SOLD \$17,250



Yellow Kid
gum vendor
(est. \$5-10,000)
SOLD \$12,075



Lukat gambling machine
(est. \$15-20,000)
SOLD \$22,425



Bally Reliance dice game
(est. \$12-15,000)
SOLD \$16,100



Mills Baseball
slot machine
(est. \$5,500-7,500)
SOLD \$9,200

Selling? 0%

Seller's commission
on expensive items

Contact Andrew Truman or Julie Killam Tel: (207) 453-7125 Email: atd@jamesdjulia.com

Consultants & Catalogers: Jay Lowe, Rick Saxman, Dorothy McGonagle, Wes Pettingill, Ed Openshaw, Phelps Fullerton

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The COCA Convention, 10 Years Later

by Bill Petrochuk

Our club has held a national convention for the last 10 years. This year, 2014, we will visit sunny Florida in October. What impact has the convention had on our club and what will the future hold for more national conventions? Perhaps we can look at how we got from 2004 to 2014 for the answers.

During the 2003 Atlantic City Antique show, COCA member Bill Howard had a conversation with fellow COCA members and friends, Jackie and Ken Durham. All three had seen each other at a recent mechanical bank convention and wondered if a coin-op convention would succeed. Bill called me when he got back to our hometown, Akron Ohio. He suggested that we meet as a group at my house to discuss the idea.

Soon we had a committee formed and the group "volunteered" me to be the first convention chairman. Everyone took on a task and plans for the first convention were underway. That first convention in Ohio had 5 collections to tour in 2 days. Close to 90 attended. We had a no fee auction, room to room trading, a great hospitality room with open bar and snacks, along with breakfast, lunch, and a farewell banquet featuring a magician. All participants received a souvenir pin.

This format was similar to what the mechanical bank club was doing at that time and continues to be the basic game plan. Any doubts of the convention's success were squelched when then COCA Treasurer, Dan Davids, told me during the convention that he was the lucky guy that had been "volunteered" to chair the 2005 convention in California.

After visiting L.A. in 2005 we went on to Wisconsin, Phoenix, New

York, San Francisco, Raleigh, Houston, Minneapolis, and Boston. No two conventions have been alike, and in one way or another each has had some unique aspect that made it an outstanding experience. I am truly grateful to those that have continued to organize and coordinate and serve as hosts at our gatherings.

Each convention has had a local chairman. I feel lucky and honored to have chaired 2 of them and attended 9. Current COCA V.P., Marsha Blau has done a tremendous job as the official convention planner and coordinator for the last several years. Most conventions have had around 100 participants. A few members have been to all ten. About 300 individuals have attended at least one convention. This number includes members and their guests.

About 80% of the participants attend as husband and wife. Although we have many female members, our club tends to be mostly a "guy" thing. The conventions provide a great platform for the ladies to get together and also enjoy a new destination for touring with their mates.

COCA membership has grown to almost 800. Yet despite our travels throughout the country, only a small percentage of you have attended a convention. So why haven't more members been to a convention?

Perhaps some members are happy enough just receiving 3 fabulous issues of "COCA Times Magazine" and enjoying our informative website or going to the meetings in Chicago. I think that there is much more to our club to be discovered.

Those that do attend have found the social side of COCA. For most members the only way to make new coin-

op friends and get to know each other is at a convention. This opportunity is seldom seen at the hectic Chicagoland Show or at an auction. Additionally, when we meet at a convention, we are able to see machines that we have only seen in pictures, how they are displayed and sometimes purchase or sell a machine.

It's important to provide the opportunity for new and old members that have never been to a convention to meet each other and see the great stuff that is out there. Our club will be stronger and continue to grow if we continue to gather with our fellow coin-op enthusiasts, trade some stories, share great meals and maybe have the chance to buy and sell some coin-op!

What does the future hold for COCA and the convention? Will we run out of new destinations that are suitable for successful conventions? Will we do a cruise or go to Canada or Europe? Will we retour some of the cities that we have been to? Will we have regional or local mini conventions? Or is there some other method that is in the cards? Anything is possible, and I believe that it is vital to the future of COCA that we continue to meet in whatever format works.

If you have never been to a convention, I look forward to meeting you in Florida this October. If you would like to help organize a convention in your area or if you have any ideas, suggestions or questions please contact me at: <http://www.coinopclub.org/contact> I will be happy to pass your input on to Marsha Blau and the rest of the COCA executive board.

VISITORS FLOCK TO PHEASANT RUN RESORT FOR SEMI-ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND ADVERTISING, SLOT MACHINE AND JUKEBOX SHOW

By Jack Kelly

While some folks fly off to a sunny climate for spring break, thousands of others set their sights on the Mega Center at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Ill., 35 miles west of Chicago.

The big event was the semiannual Chicagoland Advertising, Slot Machine and Jukebox Show on April 4, 5 and 6, which has become known as “the biggest event of its kind in the world.”

And because it was spring break, many youngsters out of school joined family members in browsing through the indoor and outdoor event.

One of the most unusual and expensive items at the show was a 7-foot-tall 1907 Multiphone that could play a selection of 24 cylinder records at your home for just 5 cents per tune – and a takeaway price of \$135,000. The elegantly restored sweeping design mahogany wood machine was shown by Paul Baker of Buffalo, NY.

Another dealer, known for unusual and expensive items, wowed show goers yet again. Frank Zygmunt Jr., of Westmont, Ill., pointed with pride to his early and rare 1900s Mills double Violano 67 oak case mu-



The show promoters offer up smiles for the camera around the coin-operated machines displayed by Soda Springs of Sandwich, Ill. They include from right, 17-year-old Sam Traynoff, Kevin and Dawn Greco, and Sam's parents, Bob and Penny Traynoff.

sic machine. The 68 by 33 by 47-inch piece was recently purchased from an Idaho music museum where it had played since the 1940s. Chicagoland buyers could take it home for \$80,000. Sixty five slot machines in Zygmunt's booth were priced from \$700 to \$25,000.

Golfers with deep pockets checked out the 56-inch-tall cast iron 1924 Chester Pollard “Play Golf” 5-cent arcade game offered for \$14,000 by John Papa of National Jukebox Exchange in Mayfield, N.Y. Others stopped to enjoy the music playing on his 1942 war years Victory Wurlitzer an all wood jukebox priced at \$7,500.

“It’s one of only three known,” said John Carini of Milwaukee, Wis., pointing to a 14-inch-tall tin-base glass globe Alball gumball machine priced at \$2,000. Music lovers hovered over his 1918 Garford Model E oak phonograph, all original with crank, priced at \$650.

“That’s an eye popper,” said one shopper, pointing to a shiny 23-inch-tall Challenger Peanut Machine with cup holder, offered for \$1,195 by Sue and Randy Ra-zoog of Grand Rapids, Mich. At the same spot, a 1920s

chewing gum tin display, with real packages of 5-cent gum and bearing the likeness of a cute little girl, could be taken home for \$1,395.

Still another gumball machine, a 1930s Ohio Model 2, was shown by 30-year show veteran Jim Purcell of Herrin, Ill., priced at \$650. He also offered a 1930s penny operated Steeple Chase horse race theme trade stimulator for \$725.

Gasoline advertising items at the show included a restored 1930s Texaco 6-foot-tall Wayne brand gas pump that could stand proudly in your garage for \$4,200. Dealer Randy Ross of Hampshire, Ill., said sales were “terrific” adding “Canadian buyers scooped up five of my seven restored pumps right away.” Meanwhile safe collectors checked out his restored 30-inch-tall 1930s cast iron safe priced at \$1,500.

Still other 26 to 29-inch-tall restored safes, “all over 100 years old” were offered by dealer Bill Pilger of West Burlington, Iowa. They could be taken home – and used for \$2,895 each. A small fry shopper passing by with her Dad from Northbrook, Ill., chirped, “they’re cool.”

At least two dealers offered automaton animated wind-up figures at the show. John Mahar of Saginaw, Mich., showed off a 26-inch-tall early 1900s German composition construction hotel bellhop priced at \$3,900. Meanwhile a paper mache’ 18-inch-tall 1920s made-in-Germany advertising automaton could entertain you for \$2,500 at the booth of Semyon Ilyashov, St. Louis, Mo.

One of the most bizarre items for sale at the show may have been the 20-inch-long Robbin late 1700s graverobber’s flintlock pistol. Presented for sale for \$3,000 by Bear Trap Trading Company, it was said to be rigged inside a casket to fire at an intruder if the lid was lifted after burial.

Foot traffic halted at the booth of David Dennett of Grandville, Mich., for a close look at a 2-by 6-foot hand-painted 1920s canvas and advertising “Aballo the Magician” showing a turbaned performer. Dennet said



A 10 year old shopper, “Claudia,” 10, from Northbrook, Ill., checks out the safes offered by Iowa dealer Bill Pilger while shopping with her father at the Chicagoland show.

he found the sign “hanging over the wall above a bed at an estate sale.” And added, “You can do the same for \$1,295.”

An unusual 7-by 12-inch chromed Coca Cola light-up sign advertising the soft drink and the words “Air Conditioned Inside” was displayed by Keith Stelter of Niles, Mich., and priced at \$695. The veteran outdoor dealer moved indoors for the indoor show and also offered a 14-inch-tall fancy deco chrome Nesbitt’s electric mixer with embossed advertising cup for \$200.

As usual there were many foreign shoppers who traveled to the semiannual event to browse and purchase items to take back overseas.

It was a 9-hour flight to Chicago for first-timers Kim and Richard Dear of Lincolnshire, England. The couple agreed that they were “amazed at

the amount of petroleum, radio and clock items at the show.” Asked if the couple would return, Richard smiled and said yes, adding, “As McDonalds would say, we’re loving it!”

Among the many visitors at the show was Eric Yarolimek, Pheasant Run Resort senior exposition sales manager, who stated, “We enjoy our relationship with the Chicagoland show and are amazed at the vast array of unusual items displayed by vendors.” He noted the early April event marked the 10-year anniversary of the Chicagoland Show at the resort’s Mega Center under the direction of the promotion team of Bob and Penny Traynoff and Kevin and Dawn Greco. Yarolimek added, “We look forward to many more years working with the promotion team.” The event itself began 34 years ago at another location.

The next Chicagoland Advertising Slot Machine and Jukebox Show will be held Nov. 14, 15 and 16.

Dealers can get information from co-promoter Bob Traynoff at 1-847-244-9263. Show information is available from co-promoter Kevin Greco at 1-815-353-1593 and at www.chicagolandshow.com.

more photos on next page



A rare 20-inch-long late 1700s grave robber's flintlock gun was priced at \$3,000.

An unusual 7-by-12-inch light-up Coca Cola sign from dealer Keith Stelter from Niles, Mich., could light up at your home for \$695.



A rare "one of three known" 14-inch-tall tin gumball machine carried a price tag of \$2,000 at the booth of John Carini, Milwaukee, Wis.



Dealer Paul Baker of Buffalo, NY, pauses for a moment beside his 1907 Multiphone, priced \$135,000 at the Chicagoland show.



For a \$14,000 investment – and five cents per play, you could test your skills on the cast iron Chester Pollard Play game shown by John Papa of Mayfield, N.Y.



Kim and Richard Dear of Lincolnshire, England took a 9-hour flight for their first-time visit to the Chicagoland show.

An early 1900s Mills oak case double Violano shown by Frank Zygmunt Jr. of Westmont, Ill., could play music at your place for \$80,000.



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The Little Salesman



Roger Smith

The Lee-White Vending Company

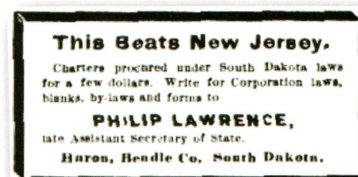
The Lee-White Vending Company of Brockport, New York, has always been something of an enigma. Bill Enes, who literally 'wrote the book' on vending, prided himself on researching the history of many of the vending machine companies represented in his two books. When it came to the Lee-White Vending Machine Company, he was stumped – he could find only one reference to the company in a Rochester City Directory from 1905. (Brockport lies 20 miles northwest of Rochester.) The real story of the company and its founders involves tax havens, a grocer, a newspaper publisher, an assistant Secretary of State and a possible connection to another, more famous, Rochester vending manufacturer.

The Lee-White Company

The Lee-White Vending Machine Company of Brockport, New York, was incorporated April 22, 1903, in South Dakota, after paying a \$10 fee. South Dakota had been admitted to the Union as the fortieth state just 13 and a half years before and had written very favorable corporate tax laws as a way of attracting business to the new state. The state records indicate a capital stock of \$3 million for the company, but it seems highly unlikely that this level of capitalization was ever achieved. Of the five individuals listed as the original "directors" of the company, only three were from Brockport and most likely to have been directly associated with the company. The other two, Philip Lawrence and Marian Hoke, were from South Dakota and appear to have been added just for the purposes of registration.

The first of these South Dakota signatories was Philip Lawrence. Philip was born in England, May 29, 1842, and moved with his parents to Mineral Point Wisconsin, in June, 1843. After serving in the Grand Army of the Republic during the great Civil War, he eventually found his way to South Dakota. He was an active civil leader, assisting in constitutional conventions that lead to statehood. Once statehood was achieved, he served as Assistant Secretary of

State. After stepping down from his post, he apparently made a very good living shepherding corporate registrations through the state filing process. He must have made a good living for his name appears repeatedly



The American Lawyer,
Volume 10, 1902



as a registered agent for dozens of companies from mining, to land, to oil. A contemporary postal card of his home shows the fruits of his political influence.

The second South Dakota director, Marian Hoke, appears to have been added to the list at the last minute. (The type on the official forms is different for her name, suggesting a later addition.) Considering other state filings, she apparently acted as a notary and representative for multiple companies, including among others, a soap maker and a brick and tile company.

The real directors

The three directors from Brockport who were clearly the real driving force behind the company were Willis S. Lee, Philip A. Blossom and George H. Davis. Each

a civic or business leader with ties to Brockport, but none with any experience in the vending business.

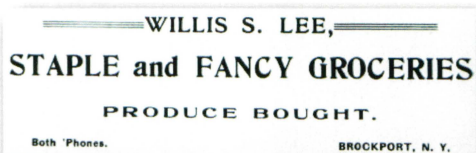
—A new industry has been established in Brockport, under the name of the Lee-White Vending Machine company, composed mainly of citizens of Brockport. It has been incorporated for the purpose of manufacturing, leasing and operating an automatic penny slot machine.

The Holly Standard, Holly, NY, June 11, 1903

Brockport itself was incorporated in 1829, taking its name from one of its earliest settlers, Heil Brockway. By the time Lee-White was being formed, it consisted of about 3,700 inhabitants and was the home of a high-fashion lady's shoe factory (Moore-Shafer Shoe Factory), a wagon works, a piano case factory and one of the largest of the State Normal Schools. (Normal Schools derive their name from the French phrase *ecole normale*. Predominately teacher's colleges, they were somewhat analogous to today's junior colleges.) As a shipping point, Brockport had rail lines and the Erie Canal – all the requisites for starting a business.

Staple and fancy groceries

Willis S. Lee was born in 1868, in New York State. Willis teamed up with his brother, Charles, and with “scarcely a dollar to his name” started a small grocery store in Lockport, New York, in about 1893. In 1894, they moved their operation to Brockport and by the following year, Willis bought out his brother's interest in



Mr. & Mrs. Willis S. Lee

the business. Through hard work, economy and enterprise he built his business and rose to be a civic leader. He was even called upon to serve on the jury for a wrongful death suit against the City of Rochester, in 1903. (The plaintiff failed to prove their case.) Reportedly a self-effacing man, it is likely that Mr.

Lee brought funding and access to some of the goods to be sold from the vending machines to the new business. Mr. Lee died May 13, 1935.

The entrepreneur

The second Brockport Director of the new company, and the likely entrepreneurial force behind its organization, was Peter A. Blossom. Peter traced his ancestry back at least 6 generations to Thomas Blossom, one of the leaders of the Pilgrim Church at Leyden and later the first Deacon of the Pilgrim Church of Plymouth, Massachusetts when that group arrived in the New World. Son of retired farmer William R. Blossom and his wife, Gertrude, Peter was born in East Hamlin, New York, June 22, 1868. He pursued classical course and graduated from the Brockport Normal School in 1889, and the University of Rochester, in 1895.



Peter A. Blossom, 1950

Following his studies, Peter became the principal of the Albion High School in Brockport. In 1896, Peter ran in the town elections for supervisor in Hamlin, but lost 273 to 55. Having had some experience with the Rochester University newspaper the *Campus*, in 1898, Peter bought *The Republic* newspaper, established in 1856. The paper was a four-page, eight-column folio that Peter quickly converted into the community's leading paper. By 1922, the printing plant had been enlarged twice and the circulation tripled. Blossom would eventually go on to buy out the

competing Brockport *Democrat* and serve two terms as the president of the New York State Press Association. By the time of his death on March 8, 1959, he was known as a civic leader and successful newspaperman, theater owner and car dealer. Peter Blossom brought money and prestige to the Lee-White Company.

The final partner

The final founding director of the Lee-White Vending Machine Company, George Herbert Davis, is much more enigmatic. Rochester City Directories provide two candidates for this founding partner; one a physician the other a mechanic.

There is a George H. Davis listed as a physician in Rochester City Directories of this period. City directories also indicate that George H. Davis arrived in 1897, as a student at the University of Rochester,

where he concluded his studies in 1901. His practice at 71 Columbia Avenue, Rochester, appears only in the 1902 and '03 City Directories, after which he moved to Hemlock, New York, roughly 20 miles south of Rochester. There is no certainty that Rochester's Dr. George H. Davis' middle name was Herbert.

The next candidate for the mystery director is another George H. Davis who was listed as an engineer, trimmer, laborer, millwright and foreman for a company located at 255 N. Water Street for over 10 years before Lee-White was formed. While no record has been found to indicate with certainty what the company was, 15 individuals list the same address for their employment. These ranged from simple helpers (3) and laborers (4) to dynamo tenders (3), oilers (2), millwrights (2) and an engineer. This area of Rochester was a manufacturing area with lithographers, machine shops and iron foundries. (T.B. Dunn, Co., manufacturer of Sen Sen gum, was located at 111 N. Water Street.) It is probable that the company at this location was the Rochester Gas & Electric Company, confirmed on later maps. By 1907, George had entered the leather remnants business, which he continued to follow for more than ten years. Again, there is no certainty about Mr. Davis' middle name.

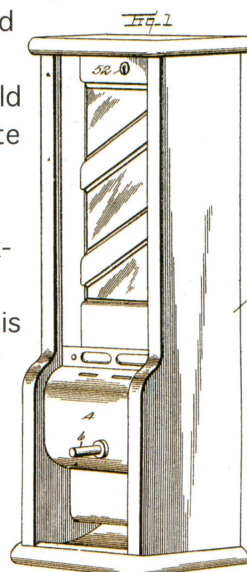
Which of these two candidates for Director of the Lee-White company (if either) was involved in the company may never be known: A physician could bring financial and prestige resources, or be the tie to the patent medicines sold from these machines. A skilled manufacturing foreman could bring years of experience in fabrication. The reality is that neither of these individuals may have been the director; the physician was new to practice and had fleeting and few ties to the community, the laborer lacked managerial expertise. Most likely the exact identity of director George Herbert Davis will remain unknown.

The Lee-White vendor

The Lee-White vendor is an oak-sided two-column vendor with two coin entries and a single push rod to vend the products. It was designed and marketed as the "Little

Salesman," and vended peanuts and patent medicines in pasteboard boxes. Somewhat like the business model followed by the neighboring Pulver Company, these machines were not sold to the jobber, but rather lent with the understanding the all goods sold had to be supplied by the Lee-White company.

At first glance this rare machine looks very familiar. There is a striking resemblance to the 1904 first patent by Adolph Rydquist under his new company, the Ryede Specialty Works of Rochester. The Rydquist patent certainly has a similar look to the Lee-White machine, but the similarities go even deeper. Both the patent and the Lee-White machine have a very similar curving tract from coin entry to mechanism. The mechanism of the Lee-White is similar to that shown in the patent, though simpler and less sophisticated. If Rydquist was the designer of this machine, it would appear he may have learned from this simpler mechanism and the problems it may have had in releasing the coin after the vending cycle. Since there is no documentation of a connection between Lee-



1904 Rydquist patent

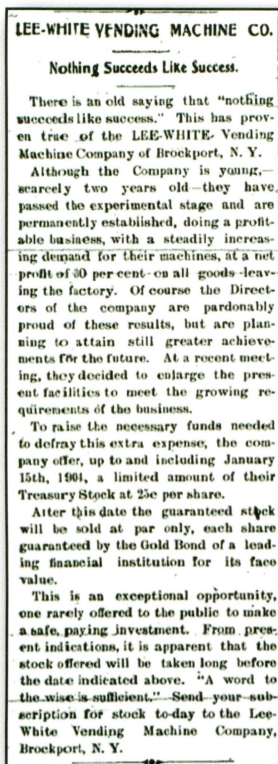
White and Rydquist, this is all speculative, however compelling it might be.

The business model

The original incorporation papers filed in South Dakota indicated a capital stock of \$3 million. When adjusted for inflation, this would be the equivalent of well over \$75 million today. There is little reason for the little town of Brockport, New York, to have supported this level of capitalization. On January 7, 1904, barely 8 months after the incorporation, an article ran in the *Brockport Reporter* soliciting investors in the new company. This announcement claimed the company had been in business for "scarcely two years" and had had sufficient growth for the directors to vote to "enlarge the present facilities." They also claimed "net profits of 30% on all goods leaving the factory."

The level of actual growth cannot be





known, but the profit claim came directly from their business model. With the condition that only Lee-White products could be sold from the machine, the company guaranteed a continuing stream of revenue. The packages vended were sold at a cost of 70¢ per 100, guaranteeing the 30% profit margin on all the penny goods sold. That profit would have gone to the jobber and not the company, but it is probable that the cost of goods to the company would have been even lower.

Sometime in 1904 or 1905, the company moved its headquarters to suite 216, in the Powers Building in Rochester. This was *the* address for insurance companies and power brokers of that day. Despite this suggestion of corporate health, the company disappears from City Directories after this time.

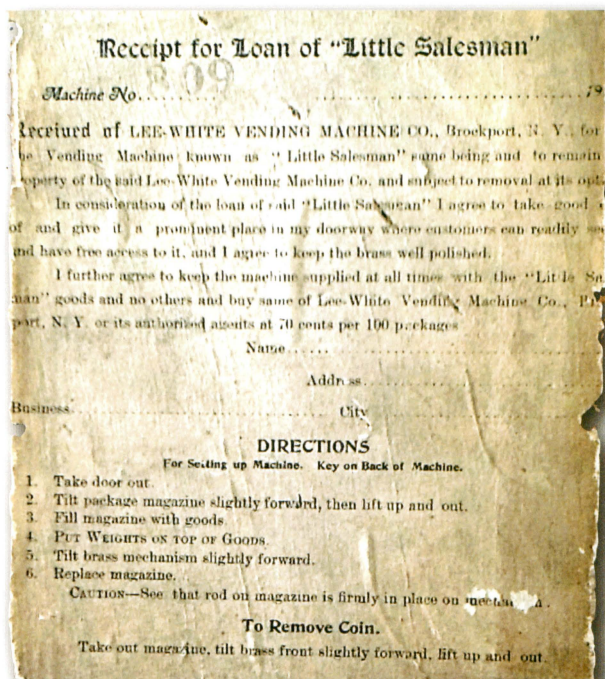
The fate of the company

The Lee-White Vending Machine Company paid only \$7.51 in taxes to the state of New York in 1905, and only \$1.50 in 1906, indicative of poor and declining sales. We can make some guesses why this may have happened: Problems with the machines and problems with the products.

The coin mechanism of the vendor may not have been very reliable, resulting in jams, stuck coins and extra product vended. Even when working perfectly, the capacity of the machine was somewhat limited, with probably no more than 40 or so packages held in each of the two vending columns. While 30% profits sound attractive, 30% of 80¢ in sales does not result in a great living, even at turn-of-the-century prices. With little profit and no ownership in the machine, the jobber may well have lost interest in the enterprise.



Powers Building, 1904



The second issue with these machines may well have been the products sold; pasteboard boxes of peanuts, candies and patent medicines. Although the peanut was a garden crop for much of the colonial period of North America, it was mostly used as animal feed stock until the 1930s. As a quick snack to be bought on impulse from a machine, it was relatively unknown in the early twentieth century. Patent medicines were very common before the Pure Food and Drug act of 1906, but you had to have a need before a sale was likely. (Even though the medicine claimed to cure hay fever, coughs, colds, asthma, sore throat, bronchitis, croup and deafness.) Both of these factors would likely have lead to poor sales from these machines.

In the end, a less than eye catching, sometimes balky machine, selling products with limited appeal, made by a company with marginal funding, from a small town in New York State, was not a recipe for success. It was, however, the recipe for a rare and collectible machine with a fascinating history.



An Evening at “Place de la Musique”

By Doug Cain

The evening of Friday, April 4, 2014, was certainly memorable for the members of C.O.C.A. who attended our special event, An Evening at “Place de la Musique”. While C.O.C.A. has toured The Sanfilippo Collection several times in the past, this trip was made more special by combining the tour with a catered dinner, held in the large open area of the Carousel Building. Though many of us have been to Jasper’s estate several times since C.O.C.A.’s first trip in April 2002, judging by the comments made to me as I toured the Carousel Building, we were all surprised at what a beautiful venue it was for the dinner. From the beautifully restored Eden Palais, the most complete example of a European salon carousel in existence, several ornate American and European fairground and dance hall organs, towering clocks, and restored railway cars bordering the dining area, the view in any direction was truly overwhelming. Following dinner, with music from the 89-key Gavioli band organ of the Eden Palais playing as the carousel was demonstrated for our group, guests were free to experience all of the wonderful mechanical marvels of the Carousel Building. Whether it was a walk through the restored railway cars, a tour of the steam engine room, with a vast exhibit of restored engines, or a stop to enjoy the carousel and



wonderful music machines, there was something to excite every one of the 226 members and guests in attendance.

Then it was on to The Victorian Palace, Jasper and Marian’s 44,000 square foot mansion almost wholly devoted to the collection. Their home, which was originally 6,000 square feet, was outgrown soon after Jasper began collecting mechanical music machines, and was expanded to accommodate the addition of the 1927 Wurlitzer theater organ, more music machines, and an area large enough for concert seating. As crowds grew for Christmas concerts and other events, the decision was made to expand the home again, and the addition completed in 1992 increased the home to its current size. The addition, with the clock tower with spiral staircase, elegant main entry foyer, grand staircase, and Mu-

sic Room designed to be the perfect acoustic home for the largest Wurlitzer theater organ ever built, complete with balcony and Victorian elevator, also featured several historic architectural and mechanical pieces that Jasper had acquired along the way.

Whether your interests are mechanical music machines, gambling devices, arcade machines, popcorn machines, peanut roasters, steam engines, great architectural pieces, art glass lamps, stained glass windows, or the beauty of The Victorian Palace, so imaginatively and tastefully done, exploring the elegant mansion and spectacular collection is something you'll never forget. Coins were provided, and we were encouraged to play the arcade machines and gambling devices, and docents assisted with explaining and playing the music machines. Having toured the "Place de la Musique" several time over the years, I'm still amazed every time I see it and always leave hoping that I get to return again someday.

The evening ended with everyone gathering in the auditorium, capable of seating 350, for a short concert played on The Mighty Wurlitzer, the most versatile orchestral theater pipe organ ever built. Originally built for the Omaha Riviera Theater, the organ was expanded to 24 ranks of pipes when first installed in the Sanfilippo music room, now known

as the 'American Orchestrion Room', and further expanded to 80 ranks upon completion of the auditorium in 1992. With 8000 pipes, the organ is capable of playing every sound available to theater organists in the 1920's, and is now regularly played in concerts by well-known theater organists. The organ has also been fitted with the capability to digitally capture the organist's inputs as selections are played, and recreate the performance with the computer playing the pieces exactly as they sounded when played live. Among the popular pieces selected by Marty Persky for our enjoyment, and to showcase the versatility of the Wurlitzer, were Phantom of the Opera, a medley of show tunes, Pinball Wizard, from the rock opera Tommy, and Chattanooga Choo Choo to end the concert. And what a great ending. With the organ playing the thunderous sounds of a steam locomotive starting out, with train whistle blowing, it feels like you are standing at the station.

If you were unable to attend this year's event, we hope to do it again in another couple years. Try not to miss it next time, since it is truly something that everyone should see at least once in their lifetime. It is probably the finest private collection, housed in the most beautiful setting that you will ever see.







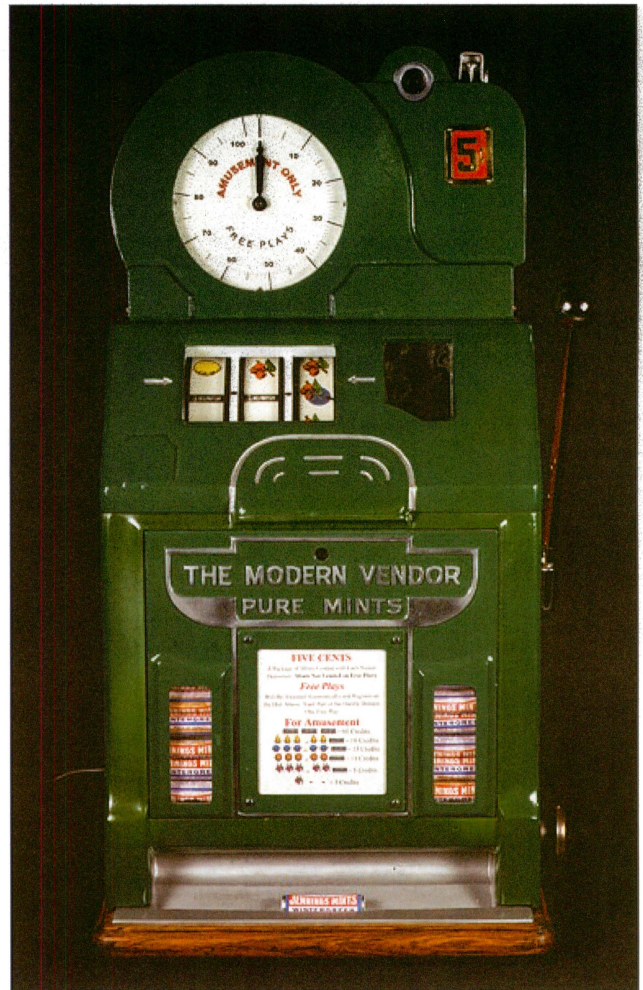
Jennings Modern Vendor – Part 2

by Rick Akers

Since my last article was published in the March 2013 issue of COCA, I've been busy (off and on) figuring out how my Modern Vendor works and restoring it.



Before

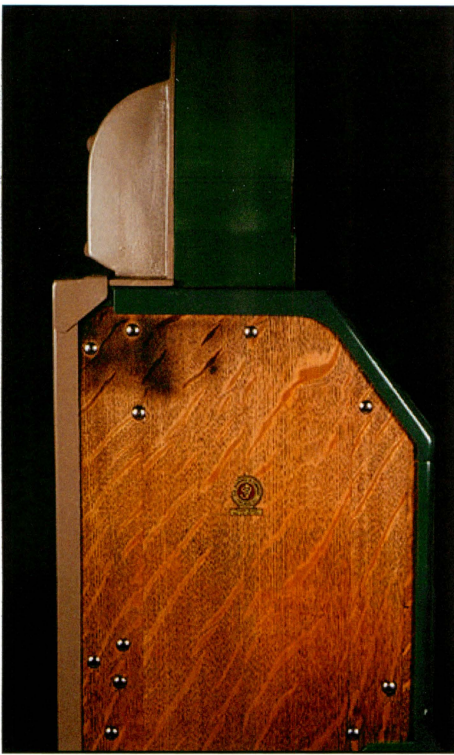


After

When I first got the machine, I was pretty sure the horse race theme reel strips on it were original. After studying the payout disc and the stepper unit I realized they were NOT original to the machine. They actually belong to the Jennings FAST TIME console slot machine. The Modern Vendor has a traditional 3-5 payout Chief mechanism without the payout slides, but the third reel also has holes at every stop for a cherry payout. If the first reel stops on a cherry, there is a 3-credit payout. If the second reel also stops on a cherry, plus the third reel every stop is a cherry, there is a 5-credit payout. In addition to every stop on the third reel having a cherry payout there are additional holes for other symbols. As you can see in the “after”

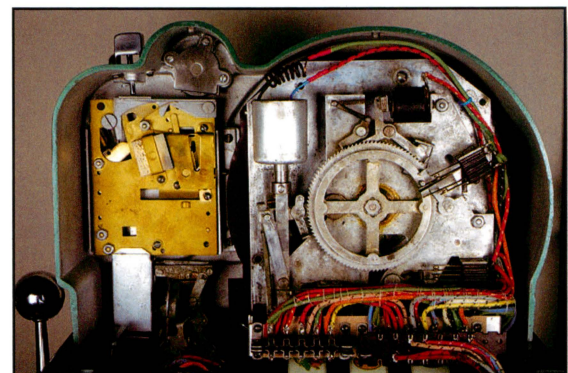
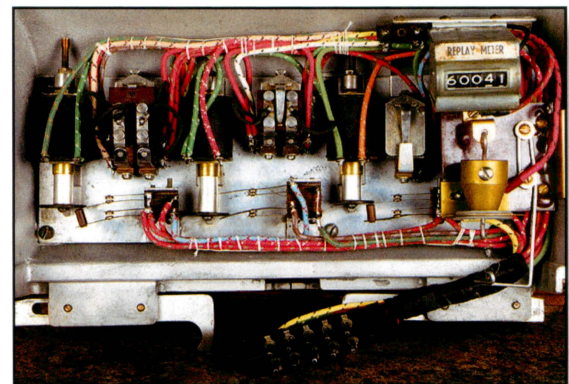
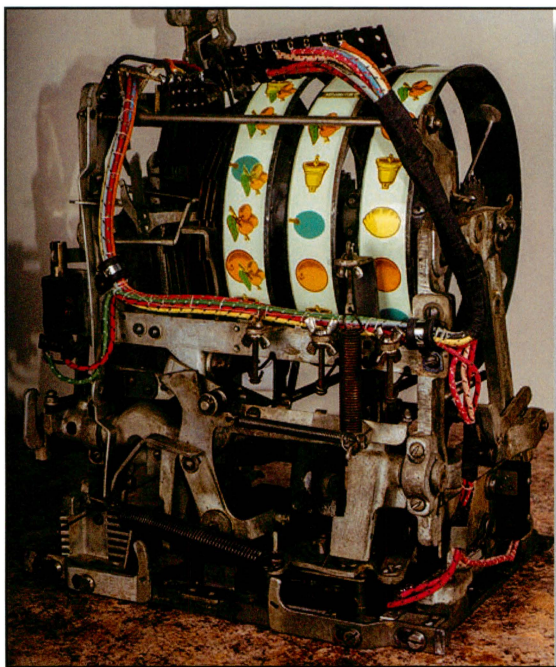
picture, there is a cherry and a plum symbol on the third reel. Line up three plums and the payout is 13 credits. I had to get those reel strip printed. I don't know if my third reel is unique to my machine or if all Modern Vendors were made this way. I suspect the way the 3 and 5 payout is set up, all Modern Vendors are the same way. You'll notice on the award card there is payout/credit information. That wasn't original, but I thought it made since showing it somewhere.

The original wording is shown above the payout information. Another safety feature I added was an On/Off switch on the left side of the cabinet.



After getting all of the mechanical problems fixed, I started looking at the electro-mechanical portion of the machine. This machine has been a roller coaster of emotions while trying to get the 1940 electro-mechanical parts understood and working. All the frustration of figuring things out, then the joy and satisfaction of finally getting it working properly. This is pretty much the first EM machine I've worked on and all those solenoids, relays, and leaf switches were a bit overwhelming at first, especially not having anything to tell me what they did. I've worked on a couple of early 1930's pinball machines, but all they had were leaf switches and a ball kicker or two. At first I tried to figure out the wiring without disturbing the string wrapping holding the wires together. I quickly came to the conclusion that I would have to remove the wrapping to trace each wire. Also, looking at the condition of the insulation around the wires, I thought it a good idea to go ahead and replace all the wiring. I don't want this thing burning down my house.

As I mentioned in the previous article, there is very little information about this machine available. I never could find any technical information such as a wiring diagram or schematic. So, while working on this machine I decided to document everything I could think of. I've created a 36-page owner's/service manual. It covers a brief history of the machine along with four advertisements from various magazines. This one I got from the International Arcade Museum in the Automatic Age magazine download area. Great web site: <http://www.arcade-museum.com/>



more on next page



My manual also covers each component of the machine; cabinet along with its wiring, slug rejecter, mechanism and its wiring, stepper unit and its wiring, back bonnet and its wiring, theory of operation and four wiring diagrams.

I've only found three other Modern Vendors. There is a collector in Los Angeles and one in Franklin, WI that have one in their collection. Also, one popped up on eBay last February from Pasadena, MD. The listing stayed up for about three days and I believe was removed by eBay (didn't have the disclaimer stating they wouldn't sell to certain states). I also heard of a collector that had one and could never get it to work. Sadly, I heard he gave up and threw it away.



There are a few Modern Vendors out there that have been modified. There was a collector from Milwaukee that bought several Modern Vendors from someone in Canada. Some were complete, some were missing parts. He took parts from Jennings One- and Four-Star machines and modified the Modern Vendors that were missing parts. He also found a very interesting Indian profile to go where the credit dial is located. So, if you see one of these machines, now you know they are NOT original.

If you ever come across one of these machines and would like help getting it going. I will be happy to help.

The Good, the Bad, and the Upright Perfection - Ben Franklin

by Bill Howard

A recent experience I had reminded me of Clint Eastwood's spaghetti westerns - "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, when I came to compare the Mills Ben Franklin with the Mills Upright Perfection. I believe it to be a consensus among collectors that the Ben Franklin is about three times as rare and valuable as its Mills counterpart.

With this background in mind, I was visiting a friend who had just completed unjamming a counter-top trade stimulator for a customer. It appeared to be a wonderful example of a Ben Franklin, complete with the ornate front castings, complete front decal, and a wonderfully preserved quarter-sawed oak case. As I admired it, my interest peaked when I was told that the owner was looking to sell it and that an offer of \$2,000 might just get the deal done. Now, coin-op prices may be down a bit for trade stimulators, but, even so, this buy seemed to make a lot of sense.

However, as I was contemplating leaving an offer, I noticed something - no stick gum vendor appeared. Maybe this was a rare Ben Franklin version that came without one? I decided that further review was in order and began collecting resource books to do some research. Wonderful times with the late Dick Bueschel caused me to remember those fa-



mous words he spoke so many times - "Knowledge is power." Sure enough, when I pulled out two such books, Tom Gustwiller's *For Amusement Only*, published in 1995 in black and white, and his new color coin-op reference, *Reel Amusement*, they told me all I needed to know.

First there was the quote I found on page 147 of *For Amusement Only* under the Ben Franklin he featured.

"Stick gum vendor....Take a Ben Franklin casting and vendor off and you have a Mills Upright Perfection".

At this, as they say, "the light went on." Surely the reverse would also be true. Take a Mills Upright Perfection and add the Ben Franklin front castings and hide the lack of a gum vendor receptacle in front and mechanism inside, and you have what looks like a Ben Franklin.

Then I picked up my copy of *Reel Amusement* and discovered on page 101 that, although the 1907 Mills Upright Perfection came after the 1903 Ben Franklin, Upright Perfections by Canada and other companies had been around since 1897, and the 1903 Ben Franklin was basically the same as these Upright Perfections, "but the added gum vending attachment was put in to make the machine legiti-

mate anywhere." **THUS, ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A BEN FRANKLIN WAS ITS GUM VENDING FEATURE.**



Armed with this knowledge, I returned to the machine in question for a closer inspection. A more detailed, critical view confirmed that these beautiful and ornate Ben Franklin castings had been added to the quarter-sawed oak case. Further, no way could the front of this case have accommodated a gum receptacle tray found on a Ben Franklin. The lower Ben Franklin casting had been added and positioned to disguise this fact. Finally, the inside of the case could never have accommodated any gum vending mechanism.

My thoughts went back to that quote from "For Amusement Only". Obviously, the Ben Franklin castings, as nice as they appeared, had been added

to a nice example of a Mills Upright Perfection to make it appear to be a terrific example of a Ben Franklin at three times the thrill and three times the value.

So, there you have it! An inquisitive mind wondering why a Ben Franklin had no gum mechanism, coupled with two great reference books, rescued this misguided soul from making a bad mistake by purchasing one machine and thinking it was another more expensive one. Good knowledge used in bad behavior to facilitate an ugly result was foiled by even better knowledge available through research from valuable source books. Needless to say, I left without making an offer.

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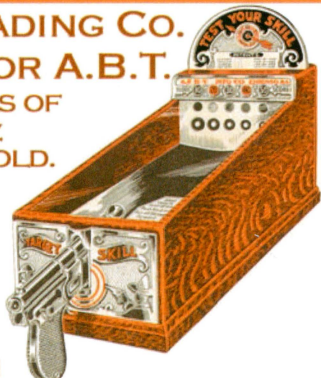
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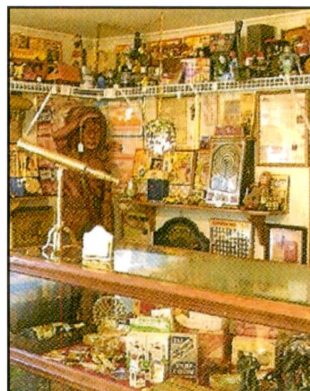
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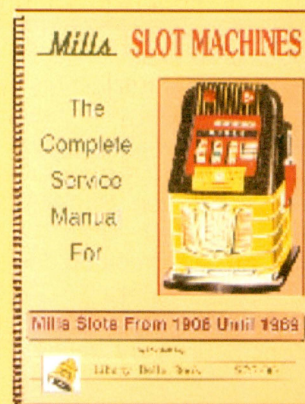
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----- TALES OF THE HUNT -----

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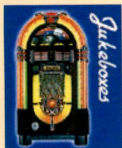
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